

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A machine readable game card comprising:
  - a card with a display surface and a readable surface;
  - at least one path arranged on the readable surface, said path having two terminals;
  - said path having an attribute of a predetermined value measured between said two terminals;
  - an image arranged on the display surface;
  - wherein said predetermined value is associated with said image.
2. The machine readable game card of claim 1, wherein:
  - said path is a conductor.
3. The machine readable game card of claim 1, wherein:
  - said path is a wave guide.
4. The machine readable game card of claim 1, wherein:
  - said path is a transmission line.
5. The machine readable game card of claim 1, wherein said predetermined value is selected from the group consisting of:
  - a resistance;
  - an impedance;
  - an inductance;
  - a capacitance;
  - an electrical length;
  - a delay;
  - a phase shift;
  - a resonant mode;
  - a transmissivity;
  - an attenuation;
  - a frequency response.
6. The machine readable game card of claim 1, wherein:
  - said display surface and said readable surface are the same surface.

7. The machine readable game card of claim 1, wherein:  
said display surface and said readable surface are  
different surfaces.
8. The machine readable game card of claim 1, wherein:  
said path is formed of conductive ink.
9. The machine readable game card of claim 1, wherein:  
said two terminals are formed of conductive ink.
10. The machine readable game card of claim 1, wherein:  
said card is formed of a material selected from the group  
consisting of:  
cardboard;  
paper;  
plastic;  
Styrofoam;  
particle board;  
organic material;  
fiber board.
11. The machine readable game card of claim 1, wherein:  
said image is formed in a medium selected from the group  
consisting of:  
a photograph;  
a painting;  
a hologram;  
a drawing;  
a lithograph;  
an offset;  
a bas-relief;  
an etching;  
a pictogram;  
a print;  
a mirror;  
a light-emitting diode;

a luminescent coating;  
a reflective coating;  
a phosphorescent coating;  
a glow-in-the-dark coating;  
a magnetic coating;  
an optical filter.

12. A reader for reading the machine readable game card of claim 1, comprising:

a board having a reader;  
a pair of terminals arranged on said reader;  
a connector;

a circuit connecting said pair of terminals to said connector;

wherein said path terminals on said machine readable game card contact said pair of terminals on said reader when said machine readable game card is placed on said reader, completing said circuit.

13. The reader of claim 12, wherein said connector is a joystick connector.

14. The reader of claim 12, further comprising a transducer connected to said joystick connector, for converting said signal to a form suitable for a joystick port.

15. A system for playing a game, comprising:

a machine readable game card;  
a reader for reading said machine readable game card;  
a computer connected to said reader;

wherein said game is accessible to said computer;

wherein said game is played by placing said machine readable game card on said reader and identifying it with said computer.

16. The system for playing a game of claim 15, wherein said computer is selected from the group consisting of:

- a personal computer;
- a laptop computer;
- a notebook computer;
- a handheld computer;
- a palmtop computer;
- a game console;
- a mainframe computer;
- a mini-computer;
- a micro-computer;
- a digital computer;
- an analog computer;
- an organic computer;
- an emulator;
- a thin client.

17. The system for playing a game of claim 15, wherein said game is selected from the group consisting of:

- a role-playing game;
- an adventure game;
- a fantasy game;
- a video game;
- a virtual reality game;
- a competition game;
- an educational game;
- a board game;
- a card game.

18. The system for playing a game of claim 15, wherein said computer is connected to the Internet.

19. The system for playing a game of claim 15, wherein said machine readable game card further comprises:

- a display surface and a readable surface;
- a path arranged on said readable surface, said path having two terminals;

said path having an attribute of a predetermined value measured between said two terminals;

an image arranged on the display surface;

wherein said predetermined value is associated with said image.

20. The system for playing a game of claim 19, wherein:  
said path is a conductor.

21. The system for playing a game of claim 19, wherein:  
said path is a wave guide.

22. The system for playing a game of claim 19, wherein:  
said path is a transmission line.

23. The system for playing a game of claim 19, wherein:  
said predetermined value is selected from the group consisting of:

a resistance;  
an impedance;  
an inductance;  
a capacitance;  
an electrical length;  
a delay;  
a phase shift;  
a resonant mode;  
a transmissivity;  
an attenuation;  
a frequency response.

24. The system for playing a game of claim 19, wherein: said path is formed of conductive ink.

25. The machine readable game card of claim 19, wherein:  
said image is formed in a medium selected from the group consisting of:

a photograph;  
a painting;



said computer further comprises a joystick port.

30. The system for playing a game of claim 28, further comprising:

a transducer connected to said joystick connector, for converting said signal to a form suitable for said joystick port.

31. A method for identifying a game card, comprising the steps of:

1) installing a game on a computer having a joystick port;

2) connecting a game card reader to the joystick port;

3) placing the game card in the game card reader, said game card having an image and an attribute of a predetermined value associated with said image;

4) receiving a signal at said joystick port associated with said predetermined value;

5) storing an identification associated with said signal accessible to said computer.